

**Testimony of Tom France, National Wildlife Federation
On HB 753, The Montana Global Warming Solutions Act
March 9, 2007**

During the last six years the National Wildlife Federation, one of the nation's oldest and largest conservation groups, has changed its emphasis to one that addresses the threats posed by a changing climate.

The National Wildlife Federation is the umbrella organization for many state affiliates that represent hunters and anglers in 48 states. We have long experience with the needs of wildlife, especially the kinds of wildlife for which hunters hunt and anglers fish.

Climate change is clearly the most serious threat to continued life, as we know it, on Earth. There is more carbon in the atmosphere now than at any time during the last 650,000 years and it is impossible to correct this before accumulated greenhouse gases cause the Earth to become still warmer. So while global warming and climate change can and will occur, it is absolutely incumbent on us, all of us, to take steps to reduce the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere so as to minimize the impacts of global warming on this and future generations. HB753 is an important step forward in this regard and NWF supports its passage.

If the science of global warming grows increasingly clear with each new report, and if the impacts of a warming climate are now more and more apparent, there is another important change that is also becoming more evident. Combating global warming is increasingly forging an amazing coalition of conservationists and corporations, of Republicans and Democrats, and of a collective response that ranges from the mayors across America to nations around the world. The issue of global warming is creating a coalition the likes of which has not previously been seen on either the American or the global political scene.

While former Vice-President Gore's longstanding work to awaken the nation to the threat posed by global warming is well-known, Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona was an early leader trying to develop a market-based solution reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Daily, there are new leaders joining with Gore and McCain. Last fall, the National Wildlife Federation co-sponsored the Climate Challenge Conference here in Helena. The keynote speaker at that conference was Bill Gerwig of BP America, a corporate leader in both reducing greenhouse emissions and developing new, clean energy technologies. Co-sponsoring the conference, along with BP America, were groups as diverse as the Montana Logging Association, the Montana Graingrowers, and the Montana AFL-CIO. In total, 41 organizations, trade associations, government agencies, local governments, corporations and foundations sponsored this conference.

This phenomenon is hardly limited to Montana.

On January 22, 2007, a group of corporations, including Aloc, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, General Electric, and DuPont, and environmental groups announced the formation of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership to combat global warming through a "mandatory economy-wide,

market driven approach to climate protection.” The national strategy called for by the Climate Action Partnership mirrors the approach taken by HB 753 at the state level.

On February 5, 2007, former President of the Montana Senate and Montana Secretary of State Bob Brown wrote every Republican member of this legislature about the threat of global warming and urged Republicans to work positively on legislation that promotes carbon sequestration and caps greenhouse emissions. HB 753 would promote both objectives, especially the capping of carbon emissions.

On February 23, 2007, Republican Governor Mark Sanford of South Carolina wrote an op-ed on global warming in the Washington Post. In his essay, Governor Sanford wrote, “for the past 20 years, I have seen the ever-so-gradual effects of rising sea levels at our farm on the South Carolina coast. I’ve had to watch once-thriving pine trees die in that fragile zone between uplands and salt marshes. I know the climate change debate isn’t over, but I believe human activity is having a measurable effect on the environment.”

On February 27, 2007, governors from five Western states, including New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington agreed to work together to set a regional cap this year on carbon dioxide emissions, and to join forces in a market-based emissions trading program within 18 months.

On March 6, 2007, in his State of the State speech, Florida’s newly elected, Republican governor Charlie Crist said that global warming is a challenge that, “we ignore at our own peril” and that “he was persuaded that global climate change is one of the most import issues that we will face in this century.”

Do all of these diverse voices agree on every detail of either the challenges posed by global warming or the solutions to it? No. Governor Sanford, especially, calls for conservatives to develop non-governmental solutions. But every one of these leaders recognizes that global warming is an overwhelming threat to this and future generations and that we must act, and act quickly. And everyone also recognizes that market-based solutions of some sort – a cap on emissions that provides economic incentives to companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequestering carbon – is an essential component of any effective strategy.

In the view of the National Wildlife Federation, HB 753 will place Montana on a sure course to reducing greenhouse gases, provide yet another powerful statement to the national and international audience of the seriousness of the threat, and give Montana businesses a competitive advantage by providing a clear path to action.

Let me close by providing you with a telling quote from “A Call to Action”, the report put out by the U.S. Climate Action Partnership. “In our view, the climate change challenge will create more economic opportunities than risks for the U.S. economy.” The best and surest way to realize these opportunities is by early, decisive action. HB753 provides exactly such an opportunity.



USCAP

United States
Climate Action
Partnership

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Contact: John Files
Office: 202-585-2077
Mobile: 202-285-1706

MAJOR BUSINESSES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS UNITE TO CALL FOR SWIFT ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

*U.S. Climate Action Partnership
Cites Environmental and Economic Benefits*

WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 22, 2007 – A diverse group of U.S.-based businesses and leading environmental organizations today called on the federal government to quickly enact strong national legislation to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. The group said any delay in action to control emissions increases the risk of unavoidable consequences that could necessitate even steeper reductions in the future.

This unprecedented alliance, called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), consists of market leaders Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, PG&E, and PNM Resources, along with four leading non-governmental organizations – Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, and World Resources Institute.

At a news conference today at the National Press Club, USCAP issued a landmark set of principles and recommendations to underscore the urgent need for a policy framework on climate change. The solutions-based report, titled *A Call for Action*, lays out a blueprint for a mandatory economy-wide, market-driven approach to climate protection.

"The time has come for constructive action that draws strength equally from business, government, and non-governmental stakeholders," said Jeff Immelt, Chairman and CEO of General Electric. "These recommendations should catalyze legislative action that encourages innovation and fosters economic growth while enhancing energy security and balance of trade, ensuring U.S. leadership on an issue of significance to our country and the world."

USCAP's recommendations [visit <http://www.us-cap.org/ClimateReport.pdf>] are based on the following six principles:

- Account for the global dimensions of climate change;
- Recognize the importance of technology;
- Be environmentally effective;
- Create economic opportunity and advantage;
- Be fair to sectors disproportionately impacted; and
- Recognize and encourage early action.

The principles and the recommendations outlined in *A Call for Action* are the result of a year-long collaboration motivated by the shared goal of slowing, stopping and reversing the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the shortest period of time reasonably achievable.

This unique cooperation of business and environmental leaders is a clear signal to lawmakers that legislative action is urgently needed. This non-partisan effort was driven by the top executives from member organizations—companies with a combined market capitalization of more than \$750 billion and environmental groups with more than one million members worldwide and global policy influence.

A Call for Action reflects a growing public concern about global warming. A recent TIME magazine/ABC News/Stanford University poll finds that a significant majority of Americans, about 85 percent, say they believe global warming is probably happening. An even larger percentage, 88 percent, say they think global warming threatens future generations.

USCAP urges policy makers to enact a policy framework for mandatory reductions of GHG emissions from major emitting sectors, including large stationary sources and transportation, and energy use in commercial and residential buildings. The cornerstone of this approach would be a cap-and-trade program. The environmental goal is to reduce global atmospheric GHG concentrations to a level that minimizes large-scale adverse impacts to humans and the natural environment. The group recommends Congress provide leadership and establish short- and mid-term emission reduction targets; a national program to accelerate technology research, development and deployment; and approaches to encourage action by other countries, including those in the developing world, as ultimately the solution must be global.

"The Climate Action Partnership recognizes that the undertaking to address climate change is an enormous one, and should not be underestimated," said Jonathan Lash, President of the World Resources Institute. "But enacting environmentally effective, economically sustainable and fair climate change law must be a national priority."

USCAP believes that programs to encourage efficiency and to promote cleaner technologies in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 enacted by the last Congress and supported by the President were a good step. However, they alone cannot get us to where we need to be on the climate change issue. A mandatory system is needed that sets clear, predictable, market-based requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The members of USCAP pledge to work with the President, the Congress and other stakeholders to confront this vital global challenge.

NOTE TO EDITOR: A full copy of *A Call for Action* and background information on the U.S. Climate Action Partnership may be found at www.us-cap.org.